



**First Christian Church**  
Disciples of Christ

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## Weekly Worship

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

**Rev. Kara Hillhouse**, Interim Pastor  
**Mark W. Miller**, Director of Music Ministries  
**Elaine Parman**, Care Minister

**Week of January 14, 2024**  
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### Call to Worship

#### Community Prayer

Insistent God, by night and day you summon your slumbering people, So stir us with your voice and enlighten our lives with your grace that we give ourselves fully to Christ's call to mission and ministry. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,  
copyright 2002 Consultation on Common Texts”

One: Young or old, tall or small:

Many: Wonder of wonders! God has called each of us here.

One: Parents volunteering at school, kids playing tag, workers stocking shelves:

Many: Wonder of wonders! God works through each of us.

# Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse  
*Here I Am Lord*

This week we find the boy Samuel working with the priest Eli, in whose care he had been left as a child so he could serve in the temple as a Nazarite (from Hebrew nazar, “to abstain from” or “to consecrate oneself to”: among the ancient Hebrews, a Nazarite was a sacred person whose separation for service was most commonly distinguished by his uncut hair and his abstinence from wine\*). One night Samuel hears someone calling to him, and he thought it was Eli. But it was not. Over and over it happened. Samuel didn’t understand that it was God speaking to him. But God persisted. God continues to call to us today, but I think we talk ourselves out of believing that what we are hearing is God’s voice. We’ll blame it on lack of sleep or too much caffeine or joke that we’re “losing our mind”. God didn’t stop calling Samuel’s name until he understood who it was who was talking to him. This shows us that God pursues us relentlessly, even when we are deaf to Him, even when we are ignorant of Him, and even - I would say - when we know it’s Him but we resist and run away. This is good news to we who are slow to hear and understand that which we cannot see or explain. God’s patience will out-last even our greatest ignorance and worst stubbornness. Join us Sunday for a look at Samuel’s life and ministry and be rejuvenated by a time of music, the Lord’s Supper and fellowship. We’ll see you Sunday!

\*[www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)



**Please note:** This is the first Weekly Worship Bulletin for 2024.  
The Administrative Assistant was out ill last week.

# Scripture Readings

## Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end - I am still with you.

## 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

# Prayers & Praises

## January 14, 2024

### In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Rhonda Ball
- Bobbi Carlin
- Mike Carlin
- William Deterding
- Joan Dietrich
- Sharon Hile
- Polly Putney
- Rae-Hope Putney
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek

### Friends:

- Jennie & Will Ernest and family. *Tyler Goodrich, the young man missing since November 3rd is Jennie's brother.*
- Tammy Foral, *healing, patience and strength as facing many health issues. Co-worker of Sara Lugn.*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhardt.*

### Our Timothys:

- Rev. Bruce Frogge, *Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX*
- Glenda Dietrich Moore, *Creative Arts Ministry in Lincoln, NE*

### In the Nebraska Region:

- All clergy and staff in the Nebraska Region

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Mission Partners in Haiti

*"Lord, hear our prayers as we are perishing at this moment. We come to you as our giver of life. Please attend our cry. Hear our cry because those who are against life hinder us."*

For more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners visit [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



## Song of the week

### *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

*Refrain:* Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

*Refrain:* Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

*Refrain:* Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

